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LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made by Mr. Ahmed Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, on 12 June 1991, confirming rejection of the Iranian-British allegations that there is an Iraqi military operation in the south.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

## Annex

## Text of Statement

The Minister for Foreign Affairs stated as follows:

"On Saturday, 8 June 1991, the Supreme Council for National Security of Iran addressed an urgent appeal to the United Nations calling upon it to adopt measures to protect the lives of millions of those blockaded in southern Iraq, alleging that Iraqi forces were preparing to launch armed attacks against them.

"As is the wont of rancourous imperialists, British circles hastened to endorse this appeal within the context of a dubious and fabricated campaign with no basis in fact.

"By the above-mentioned appeal, the Iranian regime was merely reverting to the same unacceptable course it had been following since it came to power in 1979, based on guardianship over the people of Iraq and intervention in its internal affairs without the slightest right or justification.

"It appears that the Tehran leaders have not learned from the bitter experience of their aggression against Iraq and are once again revealing their expansionist territorial ambitions in Iraq, Arabia and on the Arabian Gulf, under a tattered banner that they are the last people to respect.

"The wretched Iranian mission, with its motives and timing, falls within the context of serving imperialist Zionist schemes, arousing sectarian and ethnic chauvinism and creating sedition among the members of a single people.

"The appeal of the Supreme Council for National Security is a threadbare example of hypocrisy, opportunism and immorality, just as it is a gross violation of international law and inter-State relations, which should be based on mutual respect and non-intervention in internal affairs.

"We trust those who are trustworthy. The leadership, with the President and leader Saddam Hussein at its head, is more concerned than any foreigner for the safety, rights and dignity of its citizens, without the slightest discrimination between them on grounds of religion, nationalism or beliefs.

"Moreover, what is Iran's relation with a segment of the Iraqi people that it should shed crocodile tears about a situation it knows to be false and spurious? The south of Iraq and the other regions of the country enjoy security and stability following the burial of the leaders

of sedition, sabotage and treachery that infiltrated from Iranian territory to Iraq's southern governorates, to kill, loot, destroy and rape with unprecedented savagery and vileness. We affirm clearly that there is no military operation in the south as alleged by Iran and the mouthpieces of imperialist propaganda.

"We would remind the Iranian officials who are trying to cast doubts on the patriotism of these sincere Iraqi citizens that they were in the vanguard of the Iraqi people and its armed forces that fought with honour for eight years to defend with pure blood the pure soil of the fatherland and to affirm that their allegiance to the land and people of Iraq was not subject to doubt or bargaining. That comes high above any other considerations. You will find this loyalty and dedication also when it comes to opposing the remnants of evil, sabotage and treachery aimed, with all baseness and cowardice, against the Iraq of Arabism and Islam.

"In warning any who seek to intervene in its internal affairs on this or that pretext, Iraq affirms that the security and safety of all groups and segments of its people are the duty and responsibility of the competent Iraqi authorities and no one else and that the threat to this stability and the violation of the country's security had, and will have, its source beyond the frontiers. Remote and recent history is our best witness."

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